



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 1, 2008**

**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **Texas Drivers Hold the Key to Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention**

Every five minutes, a car is stolen in Texas. In most cases, the driver's valuable possessions are left behind in the vehicle. Vehicle-related crimes can be prevented if drivers remember to "Hide Their Belongings, Lock Their Cars, and Take Their Keys."

During July, "Watch Your Car" month, hundreds of law enforcement task force representatives, funded by the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), will be out in the community, reminding Texas drivers to take these extra precautions when leaving their vehicles unattended. In 2007, an estimated 95,000 motor vehicles were stolen and many had the keys left in the ignition.

We cannot stress enough to Texas drivers that they "Hold the Key" to auto burglary and theft prevention. Being aware of the things they can do to prevent these crimes, as well as the anti-theft devices available to protect their vehicles, such as kill switches and VIN etchings, will help deter thieves and make neighborhoods safer.

Vehicles are frequently stolen and burglarized for the resale of their parts, insurance fraud, identity theft and are used to commit gateway crimes.

During "Watch Your Car" month, the Austin Police Department will offer residents the opportunity to participate in programs designed to promote auto and burglary theft awareness. The events will be held at the following locations:

July 9, 2008 – Target South Park Meadows, 9500 S. IH-35 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

July 16, 2008 – Target Capital Plaza, 5621 N IH-35 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

July 17, 2008 – Target Lakeline, 10900 Lakeline Mall from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

July 26, 2008 – Target Stores, 2300 W. Ben White Blvd. from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



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Residents can have their vehicle identification numbers (VIN) etched for free on the vehicle's windows and participate in other auto theft programs.

**Media Advisory:** APD District Representatives will be available to answer questions or respond to concerns residents may have regarding their community.

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